

**Minutes**  
**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**  
**9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, 2007**  
**Huntington Service Center**  
**2040 Riverfork Dr. West**  
**Huntington, IN 46750**

**SSCB Attendance:**

Warren Baird  
Jim Cherry  
Larry Clemens  
Gary Conant  
Bob Eddleman  
Nola Gentry  
Bill Mann

Dave Lefforge, ISDA  
Troy Hinkle, Knox SWCD  
Ray Chattin, Knox SWCD  
Joe Carroll, Huntington SWCD  
Jim Lake, ISDA  
Julie Harrold, ISDA  
John Young, NRCS  
Kimberly Neumann, NRCS  
Jane Hardisty, NRCS  
Scott Cluppen, NRCS  
Kelley Barkell, NRCS  
Terry Rosen, NRCS  
Adam Jones, NRCS  
Jack Johnson, NRCS  
Barry Eppley, Wabash SWCD  
Tom Crowe  
Tammy Lawson, ISDA  
Jerod Chew, ISDA  
Cris Goode, ISDA  
Cheryl Jarrett, Huntington SWCD

**Audience Attendance:**

Doug Walker, ISDA  
Ed Sprunger, ISDA  
Ted McCammon, ISDA  
Matt Patton, NRCS  
Tyler Martindale, NRCS  
Cassandra Vondran, ISDA  
Joe Updike, NRCS  
Scott Trennepohl, ISDA  
Sherm Bryant, Koscuisko SWCD  
Jon Roberts, Koscuisko SWCD  
Barry Bortner, NRCS

**I. 9:00 AM: Call to Order**

**II. Welcome Gary Conant/Introductions**

The SSCB welcomed new member Gary Conant of Versailles, IN to the board. Audience introductions followed.

**III. Draft Minutes of January 2007**

**Nola Gentry moved to approve the January 2007 minutes as presented. Bill Mann seconded and the motion carried.**

**IV. Leadership Development:**

A. Supervisor Resignations/Appointments-Cris Goode

Cris Goode presented the following appointment/resignations:

Hamilton County requested the appointment of Douglas Quear of Cicero due to the resignation of James Riggs.

LaPorte County requested the appointment of Anton Ekovich of Michigan City due to the resignation of Bernie Baltes.

Wabash County requested the temporary appointment of Brian Ranck of Lafontaine because they did not hold an election.

**Warren Baird moved to approve the appointment requests. Mann seconded and the motion carried. Approved**

Ohio County requested the temporary appointment of Don Andrew of Dillsboro due to the resignation of Pete Perpinzna and the appointment of Jeffery Chipman of Rising Sun due to the resignation of Erin Helms.

**Mann moved to approve the appointment requests. Larry Clemens seconded and the motion carried.**

**B. District Requests-Bob Eddleman**

The following Clean Water Indiana Grant recipients requested extensions and alterations as follows

Brown, Dubois 403, Kosciusko, Miami, Noble, Starke, Wells, Elkhart, Owen SWCDs requested extensions to their Clean Water Indiana Grants.

**Jim Cherry moved to grant the extensions as requested. Gentry seconded and the motion carried.**

Putnam SWCD notified the board that they did partner with their Community Foundation to meet the remaining \$5,000 of their \$10,000 project. They also requested extension approval to move forward.

**Mann moved to grant the extension as requested. Baird seconded and the motion carried.**

Dubois SWCD requested an extension and alteration to the #6-CWI-305 grant. Dubois requested to extend project and change the incentive rate from \$100 to \$200 per acre. Discussion followed.

**Gentry moved to approve the extension but deny the alteration of the incentive plan. Baird seconded and the motion carried.**

Wayne County requested to alter their budget to reduce printing costs and reallocate those funds to purchase seed for their incentive program.

**Cherry moved to accept the alteration to the project's budget. Gentry seconded and the motion carried.**

Carroll County requested to alter their budget by reducing unnecessary speaker fees and reallocating funds to provide field guides at their Tillage workshop.

**Gentry moved to accept the alteration to the project's budget. Mann seconded and the motion carried.**

Troy Hinkle of Knox County requested clarification on their #6-CWI-201 grant. Hinkle shared that the original proposal for Centralized Office Manager proposed that part of the funds go toward increasing the salary of an existing position allowing the remainder to be utilized for District programs. Hinkle wanted to clarify that the District planned to leverage the \$30,000 funds in a 319 match to bring \$235,000 back to Knox County. Hinkle also requested an extension of their contract.

**Gentry moved that the District plans were within the scope of the project and to approve the extension. Mann seconded and the motion carried.**

**C. Leadership Development Workgroup Update- Nola Gentry**

Gentry shared that the Workgroup recently presented a proposal to the ICP Leaders regarding the Indiana Leadership Institute. The proposal builds upon last year's pilot project. The institute will focus on Supervisors and key District staff. The ICP Strategic Plan is the basis for the proposal to run series of workshops and a train the trainer effort. DSSs will be key to creating network of trainers.

D. District Support/Updates-Jerod Chew

DSC Assistant Director Jerod Chew introduced the two DSSs in attendance Jim Lake and Scott Trennepohl. Trennepohl will be holding regional meeting next week in Marion. Chew mentioned that DSSs will hold Regional meetings throughout the next few months with IASWCD Regional Directorts. Some points of recent focus are CWI and 319 projects while wrapping up annual meetings. There are plans to strengthen District Visits Program. The two upcoming District Visits will take place in Whitley and Clark Counties

DSSs will be helping out with tillage transects where needed. Deb Fairhurst and Ken Eck will continue to manage the transect data across the state. Once processed, Fairhurst will provide the data state-wide.

V. **Delivery System:**

A. Delivery System Workgroup Update-Jerod Chew  
ISDA/NRCS are currently in technical assistance protocol discussions.

VI. **Funding:**

A. CREP Update-Jerod Chew

Chew introduced Doug Walker, Upper White River Watershed CREP Coordinator. ISDA recently added staff to the CREP effort in all three watersheds. (CREP Report attached.)

B. Clean Water Indiana Grants – Tammy Lawson

Lawson stated the third round of CWI should be launched by July 1. The next round will be announced pending discussions of to-be-formed sub-committee.

C. Funding Workgroup Update – Bob Eddleman

Eddleman stated that budget that includes a \$2.5 million annual increase to CWI passed house and is now in the senate.

VII. **Accountability:**

A. Accountability Workgroup Update-Tammy Lawson.

Lawson shared that the original plan to hire a programmer fell through. DSC plans to procure a programmer by next week to begin working on tracking and accountability measures.

VIII. **Technology:**

A. Technology Workgroup Update-Jane Hardisty

Hardisty asked that Cassandra Vondran of ISDA update the SSCB regarding ISDA's recent purchase of robotic equipment. Vondran reported that the CITs have had the Trimble units for close to 2 months. Staff has received initial training and field training is planned to follow. The new units save quite a bit of time.

**Outreach:**

B. Outreach Workgroup Update-Cris Goode

Goode shared that the workgroup plans on focusing on two major projects in the near future. A "Who you gonna call list" to build off of DSC's current speaker list and the vamping up the ICP Web site.

IX. **CIT Structure Discussion-NRCS/ISDA-(11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) Handout Attached**

X. **SSCB Chairman's Report- Bob Eddleman Report Attached**

**A. SSCB Discussions-Tammy Lawson**

Lawson presented the following sub-committee to the SSCB to consider:

The SSCB will meet every other month (Beginning April 07) and sub-committees will hold working meetings on the off months. Official decisions must be deferred until full board meetings. Bi-monthly SSCB meeting will be longer in length and allow for more preparation.

**The board agreed to the new structure by coming to a consensus.**

The Sub-committees are as follows:

Executive: Bob Eddleman, Larry Clemens, Nola Gentry

Clean Water Indiana Grants: Bill Mann, Jim Cherry, Warren Baird

SWCD Capacity: Gary Conant, Nola Gentry, Bob Eddleman

**XI. ISDA Report-Tammy Lawson**

Lawson reported that ISDA is in daily discussions regarding leveraging opportunities in the proposed Budget. She shared that there is a huge support in the legislator for leveraging opportunities such as CREP despite the program's steep learning curve.

**XII. DNR Report- No Report**

**XIII. IDEM Report-No Report**

**XIV. Purdue Report-No Report**

**XV. IASWCD President's Report- Jennifer Boyle** Written Report Attached

**XVI. NRCS State Conservationist's Report-Jane Hardisty** Written Report Attached

**XVII. Farm Services Agency Report-No Report**

**XVIII. SWCD Foundation Report-No Report**

**XIX. Public Comment**

The audience thanked the SSCB for coming to Huntington for the day.

**XX. Next Meeting: April 10, 2007 at ISDA**

**XXI. Adjourn 1 p.m.**

Minutes Prepared By: Cris Goode

**Approved By:**


# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Report 3-13-07

## March

<u>Watersheds</u>	<u>Contracts</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Obligated Funds</u>
Tippecanoe River	264	1754.60	\$250,440.00
Upper White River	75	622.80	\$275,095.00
Pigeon/Highland Rivers	71	225.10	\$35,920.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>2602.50</b>	<b>\$561,455.00</b>

<u>CREP Practice Breakdown</u>	
Hardwood Tree Planting	43.1
Filter Strips	1860.93
Riparian Buffer	56.7
Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain	187.8
Bottomland Tree Planting	411.47
Wetland Restoration	42.5

## February

<u>Watersheds</u>	<u>Contracts</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Obligated Funds</u>
Tippecanoe River	244	1632.20	\$235,830.00
Upper White River	71	580.80	\$246,295.00
Pigeon/Highland Rivers	60	170.80	\$23,290.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>2383.80</b>	<b>\$505,415.00</b>

<u>CREP Practice Breakdown</u>	
Hardwood Tree Planting	19.1
Filter Strips	1689.1
Riparian Buffer	48
Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain	213.6
Bottomland Tree Planting	413.5

SSCB Chairman's Report  
March 13, 2007

1. We have been practicing deferred maintenance-*ie.* Drainage, energy development, farm to market roads, urban infrastructure, etc. It is time to reverse this trend in a reasonable and logical way.
2. Partnerships must not move on parallel lines – because they never merge. It is essential that partnerships move in a converging pattern to make the best use of resources.
3. A lot of emphasis was placed on the 25/25 effort. This effort is a national movement to produce 25% of our energy from renewable sources by 2025. This means agriculture should produce no wastes – all should go to some form of energy production.
4. NRCS will focus on improving technical expertise, improved delivery and conserving private land – 2/3rds of US is private land – 95% of Indiana is private land.

Three major NRCS priorities:

- a. Address energy issues – energy air, etc.
- b. Finding ways to make conservation easier – tools, programs.
- c. Accountability



**Indiana Association of  
Soil and Water  
Conservation Districts**

Protecting and enhancing Indiana's soil  
and water resources for all Hoosiers



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**To:** State Soil Conservation Board

**From:** Jim Droege, President, IASWCD

**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2007

**New IASWCD Officers**

- President – Jim Droege
- Vice-President – Paula Baldwin
- Secretary – Jon Roberts
- Treasurer – Jeff Meinders
- Directors – Kenny Cain, Ray McCormick, Lyle Burtsfield, Larry Strole, Charley Hendricks, Bobby Hettmansperger, Brad Dawson, and Brad Ponsler

**IASWCD Strategic Plan**

- New Strategic Plan copies made available at 2007 Annual Conference. Also available on the website. Committee chairs to be assigned soon and committees will begin working on annual work plans to accomplish their responsibilities within the Strategic Plan.

**State Drink Initiative**

- Still waiting on Senator Kruse to introduce a resolution declaring “water” as the state drink of Indiana.

**Region Meetings**

- IASWCD S-SW region meeting on March 14 at 7 pm (Central time) at Sugar Ridge FWA
- IASWCD S-NW region meeting on March 14 at 6:30 pm in Lebanon
- IASWCD N-SE region meeting on March 22 at 6:30 pm in Batesville

**Ag Day Proclamation**

- March 21, 12:30 pm at the Statehouse. Sponsored by the Indiana Ag Resources Council. Proclamation will be read at 12:30 pm and a small reception of Indiana products will follow.

**Budgets**

- IASWCD has been sending updates and encouraging local Districts to contact their legislators and congressional delegates regarding the State budget and the NRCS federal budget.

*THE IASWCD MISSION is to represent SWCDs as one voice and assist the leadership of local Districts through coordination and education for the wise use and management of our natural resources.*

Indiana State Soil Conservation Board Meeting  
March 13, 2007  
NRCS State Conservationist Report

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**USDA 2007 Farm Bill Proposal**

Secretary Mike Johanns released the 2007 Administration's Farm Bill Proposal January 31, 2007. The proposal increases conservation funding by \$7.8 billion and simplifies and consolidates conservation programs. For example, the proposal includes consolidating existing financial assistance programs (EQIP, WHIP, etc.) under a newly-designed Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and consolidating easement programs into one new Private Lands Protection Program. Please see the attached summary of conservation recommendations for information, or visit <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/> for links to the entire proposal, fact sheets, and other information.

**2007 Budget**

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, the Senate approved House Joint Resolution 20 to provide funding for the Federal Government for the remainder of fiscal year 2007. The resolution does not include earmarks for USDA programs. It is expected that NRCS Headquarters will provide the states with their budgets by the end of March.

**2008 Budget**

Secretary Johanns announced the President's proposed budget for FY 2008 on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Below are some comparisons of the budget proposal relative to FY 2006 funding levels:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program: \$1 billion, down \$270 million from Farm Bill authorized levels.
- Conservation Security Program: Proposed spending cap of \$316 million, up from \$257 million in FY 2006.
- Conservation Reserve Program Technical Assistance: \$58 million, down from \$78 million in FY 2006.
- Resource Conservation and Development: \$15 million, down from \$51 million in FY 2006.
- Watershed Programs: \$6 million, down from \$75 million.

Congress will now begin their discussions and debate on the FY 2008 budget appropriations.

**EQIP Updates**

Beginning this year, NRCS has a special allocation called Ground and Surface Water Conservation that offers financial assistance for improving irrigation system efficiency and establishing a Drainage Water Management system.

Indiana NRCS has allocated a portion of this year's EQIP funding to deal with environmental emergencies. Funding is available to deal with failures and impending failures in manure storage facilities, mass animal mortality situations, and for livestock producers who only apply for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans.



**WHIP Updates**

The maximum cost-share amount a WHIP applicant can apply for in 2007 has been raised from \$25,000 to \$50,000 per applicant. This applies to all WHIP applications received in FY 2007.

**CSP Update**

There will be no new sign up for CSP in FY 2007. All current contracts, funded through past year sign-ups, will continue to be funded.

**Digital Soils Information Now 100%**

After 105 years of work, the digital soils coverage for Indiana is at 100%. For those with access to a computer, digital soils information for all 92 Indiana counties is now available, anytime, anywhere, through the Soil Data Mart <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/> and the Web Soil Survey <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>. For those without a computer, Soil and Water Conservation District offices will continue to be the primary provider of important soils information.

In addition to the traditional uses by farmers and conservation planners, soil survey information now has many other users. Homeowners, realtors, county officials, universities, students, disaster relief areas, consultants, among others, are finding the information useful. The digital format makes the soils data and information much more available because of access through the internet, and the reduced costs of producing digital copies of the data rather than printed copies.

# **USDA 2007 FARM BILL PROPOSAL: TITLE II CONSERVATION, SUMMARY**

(From <http://www.usda.gov/documents/07title2.doc>)

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## ***Recommendations in Brief***

Improve and increase funding of USDA conservation programs to better serve farmers, the environment, and all U.S. citizens.

## ***Recommended Solution***

The Administration is recommending several changes to Title II of the farm bill – entitled “Conservation.” Following is a list of the major components of the package.

1. Consolidate existing programs (Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Agricultural Management Assistance Program, Forest Land Enhancement Program, Ground and Surface Water Conservation Program, and the Klamath Basin Program) that provide financial assistance to customers through cost-share and incentives for working lands under a newly-designed Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Simplify and streamline these activities, reduce redundancies, and produce more cost-effective environmental benefits. Create a new Regional Water Enhancement Program (RWEP) that focuses on cooperative approaches to enhancing water quantity and/or quality on a regional scale, and invest additional resources in the Conservation Innovation Grants program. These important changes to the EQIP program would invest an additional \$4.250 billion. (For further information, see the proposal entitled “Environmental Quality Incentives Program” on pages 43 – 45.)
2. Modify the Conservation Security Program (CSP) to create a stewardship program that emphasizes incentives for implementing higher levels of conservation practices. Expand CSP enrollment from its current 15.5 million acres to an estimated 96.5 million acres over the next 10 years, increasing investment by an additional \$500 million funding over the 10 year baseline. (For further information, see the proposal entitled “Conservation Security Program” on pages 46 – 48.)
3. Consolidate three existing easement programs for working lands into one new Private Lands Protection Program to streamline processes, eliminate redundancies, and expand the strengths of each program. Invest an additional \$900 million over 10-year baseline in this new easement program. (For further information, see the proposal entitled “Private Lands Protection Program” on pages 49 – 50.)
4. Reauthorize and enhance the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to focus on lands that provide the most benefits for environmentally sensitive lands. And in addition, give priority within whole-field enrollment for lands utilized for biomass production for energy. (For further information, see the proposal entitled “Conservation Reserve Program” on pages 51 – 52.)
5. Reauthorize the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and consolidate the floodplain easements program of the Emergency Watershed Program into the WRP. Increase the total enrollment cap to 3.5 million acres, but maintain the fiscal year enrollment goal of 250,000 acres. This increase in acreage equates to an investment of \$2.125 billion

over ten years. Also introduce popular attributes of other easement programs into WRP. (For further information, see the proposal entitled "Wetlands Reserve Program" on pages 53 – 54.)

6. Expand conservation compliance to include "Sod Saver" to discourage conversion of grassland to crop production. (For further information, see the proposal entitled "Implement 'Sod Saver' to Discourage the Conversion of Grassland into Cropland" on pages 55 – 56.)
7. Designate a portion of each conservation program specifically for beginning farmers and ranchers, as well as socially disadvantaged producers. (For further information, see the proposal entitled "Conservation Access for Beginning and Socially Disadvantaged Producers" on pages 57 – 58.)
8. Invest \$50 million over ten years to encourage new private sector environmental markets to supplement existing conservation and forestry programs. Introduce market forces into existing conservation programs to provide greater environmental returns from federal and landowner investments in conservation. (For further information, see the proposal entitled "Market-Based Approach to Conservation" on pages 59 – 60.)
9. Repeal Section 1241(d) of the 1985 Food Security Act, the regional equity provision, to allow funding to be allocated based on the highest need and best use of conservation funding. (For further information, see the proposal entitled "Merit-Based Funding Allocation" on page 61.)
10. Consolidate two emergency response programs - the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) and the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) - into a new Emergency Landscape Restoration Program. Provide a one-stop source for landowners who need assistance after a catastrophic event to restore land to its productive state and prevent further land and water impairments. (For further information, see the proposal entitled "Emergency Landscape Restoration Program" on pages 62 – 63.)